



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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December 15, 2011

Mike Ribordy
Chief, Emergency Response Section 2
Emergency Response Branch 2
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard, SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Loewenthal Metals Corporation
LPC# 0316315293 – Cook County
SF/Tech

Dear Mr. Ribordy:

I am requesting the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assign an On-Scene Coordinator and consider conducting a time-critical removal action at the Loewenthal Metals Corporation (Loewenthal Metals) Site located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Loewenthal Metals is located at 947 West Cullerton Street in Chicago, Illinois (see site location map). The site is located in a mostly residential area just west of Interstate 90/94. The 0.42 acres site can be found just south of the intersection of South Sangamon Street and West Cullerton Street. The property is mostly flat and partially vegetated with weeds and scattered trees. A concrete foundation is located on the southern portion of the site which may be a remnant of the original facility. The Cook County Assessor's Office has assigned 17-20-433-003-0000 as the Property Index Number (PIN) for the address of 2006 S. Sangamon Street which is also the same as 947 W. Cullerton Street.

The 1940 "Standard Metal Directory" lists Loewenthal Metal Corporation as an antimonial lead and zinc smelter. The company is also listed in the 1948-49 "Standard Metal Directory" under Aluminum and Battery Lead Smelter, and Scrap Iron and Metal Dealers, as well as Importers and Exporters of Scrap Metal.


In 2006, Illinois EPA's Office of Site Evaluation conducted a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment at the Loewenthal Metals Site. As part of the investigation, a Niton X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) spectrum analyzer was utilized to collect inorganic soil data from twelve (12) locations. These locations are illustrated on the attached sample location map. The results of the XRF data indicated that inorganic

contaminants were detected in several locations throughout the property. Specifically, the XRF detected levels of lead that exceeded 5900 parts per million (ppm) and arsenic at 589 ppm. The results of the XRF analysis are also attached to this referral. Following the sampling conducted by Illinois EPA, the data was shared with the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Illinois Department of Public Health subsequently contacted the property owner and shared the results with him.

Due to the fact that the property remains in an area that is accessible to the public and elevated levels of lead and arsenic were previously detected, Illinois EPA is making this referral for a time-critical removal action. Please have your On-Scene Coordinator contact Lance Range at (217) 524-1661 or me at the above number as soon as possible to discuss additional site information. Illinois EPA has compiled other information which includes a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment Report with photographs and other site information.

As always, the Illinois EPA will provide assistance to U.S. EPA regarding this matter. Thank you for your continued assistance and we look forward to hearing from U.S. EPA for this project and future removal activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Everetts". The signature is stylized with a large "B" and a cursive "Everetts".

Bruce Everetts
Office of Site Evaluation
Division of Remediation Management
Bureau of Land

bcc: Division File, w/ attachments
Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA, w/o attachments, via e-mail
Michelle Tebrugge, OCR, w/o attachments, via e-mail
Lance Range, OSE, w/o attachments, via e-mail
Dean Studer, OCR, w/o attachments, via e-mail